



February 11, 2014

The Honorable Candice Miller
United States Representative
320 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Miller,

Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) is a non-profit member-based organization with over 250 affiliated clubs and 42,000 members. For 77 years, MUCC has united citizens to conserve, protect and enhance Michigan's natural resources and preserve our outdoor heritage through education, communication and advocacy. As we continue our strong tradition of defending the outdoors, we appreciate your support and leadership in introducing the *Defending Against Aquatic Invasive Species Act of 2014* to authorize quick action to stop Asian carp and protect the Great Lakes.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) released a [report](#) to Congress outlining eight options to prevent the invasive species from entering the Great Lakes. The USACE expects the options for physical separation to cost over \$15 billion and take 25 years to complete, due to flood control structures and tunnels that have to be constructed. MUCC and the citizens who provided public comment on this report agreed that Asian carp will not wait 25 years, it only took them 20 to get from the southern Mississippi to the Chicago Area Waterway System. The Defending Against Aquatic Invasive Species Act of 2014 authorizes the Secretary of the Army to completely separate the hydrologic connection between the Mississippi River and Lake Michigan and requires them to get started on construction within a year of its enactment.

While the \$15 billion price tag for this project is a lot of money, it pales in comparison to the damage that Asian carp would cause to the Great Lakes fishery, which is valued at \$7 billion *annually*. Without effective means to protect our Great Lakes and potentially inland waterways from this aquatic invasive species highway, the \$4.8 billion in retail spending by sportsmen and women and the additional \$3.2 billion per year in recreational boating-related spending and the economic ripple effect that spending has upon our state's economy will falter along with our state's tourism industry and the outdoor traditions that we treasure in Michigan. We urge your fellow Congressional and U.S. Senate colleagues to support funding necessary to undertake this initiative.

Thank you for standing up in support of the Great Lakes, Michigan's sportsmen and women and the conservation of our natural resources.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin McDonough, Executive Director